

## Abstract of the Disclosure

The invention concerns a method for metal strip heat treatment comprising:

passing the strip inside a chamber through a heating zone, and a cooling zone, and establishing a first protective gas atmosphere containing nitrogen and a first hydrogen content in the chamber, except for the cooling zone, wherein is adjusted a second protective gas atmosphere containing nitrogen and a second hydrogen content higher than the first, introducing nitrogen into the chamber, injecting protective gas containing a third hydrogen content higher than said second content in said cooling zone, producing a gas exchange between one zone of the chamber having said first protective gas atmosphere and said cooling zone, and controlling the flow of said introduction and said injection.